

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise in view of reply to (c) above.

Performance of sports at International level

†2564. PROF. RAM DEO BHANDARY: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for India's dismal performance in games like Football, Hockey and now a days in Cricket at International level;

(b) whether Government have made efforts to find out the reasons behind it; and

(c) if so, the details thereof, and steps being taken by Government to bring India's performance at par with International level?

THE MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) to (c) The promotion of sports is primarily the responsibility of the State Governments at the state level, and of the National Sports Federations (NSFs) concerned with various sports disciplines at the national level. These NSFs are registered autonomous bodies. The Government, however, supplements them in efforts by providing financial assistance for training and participation in international sports events abroad, organization of national/international tournaments in India, training/coaching of national level sportspersons/teams under Indian and foreign coaches with requisite technical & scientific back-up, procurement of sports equipment etc. under its scheme "Assistance to National Sports Federations". It may be mentioned here that the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) is not seeking any assistance for any of its activities from the Government.

With a view to improving India's performance in international events, Long Term Development Plans (LTDPs) are prepared in respect of different disciplines by the NSFs concerned, which include components relating to coaching, training camps, participation of teams in international events, specific equipment requirements, etc. and assistance is provided to the NSFs keeping these in view. The Government is reviewing the various components of the existing scheme of "Assistance to National Sports

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi

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Federations" with the aim of making it more effective and result oriented. Towards this end, the infrastructure available with the Sports Authority of India for training purposes is also being upgraded. However, it is also for the NSFs concerned with various games, including Football, Hockey and Cricket to take appropriate measures for improvement of performance at the international level.

Separately the Ministry is also considering the launching of a 'Panchayat Yuva Khel Abhiyan' with the aim of significantly enhancing access to organized sports and games facilities for the youth, particularly in the rural areas, and in the process widening the catchment for spotting and nurturing of sports talent and promotion of excellence in sports, and thereby also enhancing the levels of performance and achievements at the national and international levels. Discussions with the State Governments, the Ministries concerned and other stake holders in this regard are underway.

National games in Jharkhand in 2007

†2565. SHRI AJAY MAROO: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) the latest information available with Government regarding national games to be held in Jharkhand in 2007.

(b) whether Government are satisfied with preparations being made for such games; and

(c) if not, the steps being taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) The Indian Olympic Association have allotted the 34th National Games to be held in 2007 to Jharkhand. However, the specific dates are yet to be finalized. In all, 28 sports events are expected to take place, out of which 20 events are proposed to be conducted at Ranchi and 8 events at Jamshedpur. The infrastructure projects being constructed for the National Games include: the Main Stadium; indoor stadia for Badminton/ Table Tennis, Basketball/Volleyball and Gymnastics; Velodrome; Shooting Range; playfields for Kho kho/Kabaddi; Games Village; renovation of the Birsa Munda Stadium; and hockey stadium with astro-turf.

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